

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 /093 W

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R 090840Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI ECONOMIC MINISTER'S JAPAN VISIT

1. SAUDI ECONOMICS PLANNING MINISTER NAZER CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER MIKI, FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA AND MITI MINISTER KOMOTO LAST WEEK WHILE IN JAPAN TO ATTEND A STOCKHOLDERS MEETING OF SAUDI-KUWAITI-JAPANESE JOINT VENTURE ARABIAN OIL COMPANY. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR KOJIMA OF MOFA MIDDLE EAST DIV., MINISTERAL MEETINGS LASTED 30-40 MINUTES AND WERE LARGELY DEVOTED TO REVIEWING FOLLOW-ON WORK TO FIRST SAUDI-JAPANESE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD LAST JANUARY. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT SPONGE IRON AND PETRO-CHEMICAL PROJECTS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND PLEDGED JAPAN'S FULL SUPPORT, BUT NO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THESE OR OTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROJECTS TOOK PLACE.

2. ASKED IF NAZER SEEMED SATISFIED WITH JAPANESE COOPER-

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ATION, KOJIMA RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. JAPAN'S ROLE IN

SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE LIMITED, HE SAID, BUT THE SAUDIS ARE EAGER TO HAVE SEVERAL INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN SAUDI DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PART TO ACCELERATE THAT DEVELOPMENT AND IN PART TO COUNTERBALANCE THE DOMINANT U.S. PRESENCE. NAZER NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WEST GERMANY HAS ALSO SHOWN "STRONG INTEREST" IN INVESTING IN THE SPONGE IRON PROJECT. (KOJIMA ADDED THAT IF MARCONA IS UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT, NIPPON STEEL, WHICH HAS ONLY A 6 PERCENT INTEREST, WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONTINUE.)

3. A QUITE DIFFERENT PICTURE, HOWEVER, WAS PAINTED FOR US BY AN ARABIAN OIL COMPANY OFFICIAL WITH 13 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MR. SOICHI TSUGE TOLD US THAT NAZER HAD BEEN "VERY DISAPPOINTED" WITH HIS RECEPTION. THE PROBLEM APPARENTLY IS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE WAITING FOR THE OTHER TO MAKE THE KIND OF DETAILED, CAREFULLY RESEARCHED PROPOSAL PROVIDED BY THE U.S. "THE JAPANESE KEEP WAITING FOR THE SAUDIS TO SAY WHAT THEY WANT," TSUGE SAID, "AND THE SAUDIS EXPECT THE JAPANESE TO HAVE DONE THE HOMEWORK."

HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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